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for the data themselves we have all reason to feel grateful. While as a scientific work it cannot bear a comparison with similar works of Wellhausen and Cornill, and not even of Ryssel, and while it has not solved the problem it investigates, it certainly has done much toward this solution.

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SAYCE'S RECORDS OF THE PAST, VOLS. I. AND II.*

The new edition of the *Records of the Past* seems to follow too closely the old edition edited by Birch. The texts are inserted promiscuously without regard to order, linguistic or chronological. One finds Assyrian, Babylonian, Vannic, Egyptian, etc., following one another in quite a confused manner. There are very few philological notes; the plan of the book dispenses with transliterations. It would have been more satisfactory if the arrangement had followed as closely as possible the chronological order of the material and had separated the Assyro-Babylonian from the Egyptian, placing the miscellaneous material, e. g., the Akkadian, Vannic, Moabite Stone, etc., in a single volume by itself. It is also to be regretted that the transliterations of the different texts have not been added, if only in nonpareil type at the foot of each page (in order to save space and not to make the volumes too bulky) so that students might have used this series as convenient hand-books. While Schrader's *Keilinschriftliche Bibliothek* is to be preferred on account of its transliterations and the chronological arrangement of the texts, it is nevertheless far behind the *RP.* in the matter of introductions to the texts translated, bibliographical and geographical notes, some of the latter being very exhaustive and of great value.

In Vol. I. Prof. Sayce translates the "Dynastic Tablets and Chronicles of the Babylonians." He reckons six of these, and No. 4 is the lately discovered Baby-

* RECORDS OF THE PAST, being English Translations of the Ancient Monuments of Egypt and Western Asia. New series. Edited by A. H. Sayce. London: Samuel Bagster & Sons.

Contents of Volume I.: 1. The Dynastic Tablets and Chronicles of the Babylonians, 1-41, by Sayce. 2. The Inscriptions of Telloh, 42-77, by Arthur Amiaud. 3. Sin-Ghasid's Endowment of the Temple Ê-Ana, 78-83, by T. G. Pinches. 4. An Erechite's Lament, 84-85, by T. G. Pinches. 5. Inscription of Tiglath-pileser I., 86-121, by Sayce. 6. The Assyrian Story of the Creation, 122-146, by Sayce. 7. The Babylonian Story of the Creation according to the Tradition of Cutha, 147-153, by Sayce. 8. Babylonian Lawsuits and Judgments, 154-162, by J. Oppert. 9. Inscription of Menuas, King of Ararat, in the Vannic Language, 163-167, by Sayce. 10. The Ancient Hebrew Inscription of Siloam, 168-175, by Sayce.

Contents of Volume II.: 1. Inscription of Uni (of Sixth Dynasty), 1-10, by Maspero. 2. The Adventures of Sinuhit (of 12th Dynasty), 11-36, by Maspero. 3. The Legend of the expulsion of the Hyksos, 37-44, by Maspero. 4. The Stele of Thothmes IV. (of 18th Dynasty), 45-56, by D. Mallet. 5. Tablets of Tel el-Amarna relating to Palestine in the Century before the Exodus, 57-71, by Sayce. 6. Inscriptions of Telloh, 72-109, by Arthur Amiaud. 7. The Assyrian Chronological Canon, 110-127, by Sayce. 8. The Standard Inscription of Assurnatsirpal, 128-177, by Sayce. 9. Specimens of Assyrian Correspondence, 178-189, by T. G. Pinches. 10. Akkadian Hymn to the Setting Sun, 190-193, by G. Bertin. 11. The Moabite Stone, 194-203, by A. Neubauer.

lonian Chronicle. Prof. Sayce, for the first time, has put this chronicle in convenient form for English readers, Pinches' translation not being easily accessible. The inscriptions of Telloh are translated by Arthur Amiaud, the first scholar in this line of investigation and whose early death was a very serious blow to Assyriology. Amiaud's introduction is very interesting. He discusses 1st the site Telloh, and identifies it with Shirpurla. Shirpurla, however, is to be taken as a general name of a great centre of population of which Girsu, Uru-azagga, Ninâ, and Gishgalla are only divisions or quarters. 2d. The Dynasties of Telloh, i. e., the kings (four or five in number) and the Patesis (eight). 3d. The campaign of Gudea in Elam, and 4th, The Pantheon of Telloh. Nirgirsu was the supreme god and in addition each prince was accustomed to select an additional deity to intercede for him with Nirgirsu.

In Vol. II., Prof. Sayce translates some of the Tel el-Amarna inscriptions, being selections from those which appeared in the *PSBA.*, Vol. IX.* Many of his readings must be regarded as provisional, and some of them will, doubtless, be given up when the el-Amarna tablets have been more thoroughly studied. The editor has also translated the "Assyrian Canon and Chronicle." It would have been better if this material had followed the "Dynastic Tablets" in I. Pinches in his specimens of Assyrian correspondence adds to the translation the ever welcome transliteration and philological notes. Neubauer translates the Moabite Stone and gives a fairly exhaustive bibliography of the subject.

These books will be of great value to students who are not acquainted with the Assyro-Babylonian and the Egyptian. They must not be regarded as the final presentation on the subjects of which they treat. Some of the texts translated are exceedingly difficult, e. g., the Creation and El-Amarna tablets, and many years will pass by before what may be called a final translation can be offered.

Perhaps a good reason existed for the lack of order in these volumes, viz., that some of the material is new and important and hence the publication should not be delayed for years until its place is reached in the series.

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* Cf. *HEBRAICA*, October 1889, p. 73.